

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13260 291931Z

72

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EA-11 EUR-25 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /210 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2115

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13260

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM IT IAEA

SUBJECT: GOI RATIFICATION PROSPECTS FOR NPT AND SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT

REF: ROME 5154

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF DISARMAMENT TOPICS NOVEMBER 29
WITH FONOFF DISARMAMENT DIRECTOR (FONTANA-GIUSTI), EMBOFF INQUIRED
AS TO STATUS OF ITALIAN RATIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT AND
LATEST GOI THINKING ON NPT. RECALLING THAT ITALIAN POSITION ON
NPT RATIFICATION AS LAST EXPLAINED TO US (REFTEL) WAS THAT IT
COULD ONLY COME AFTER SAFEGUARDS RATIFICATION, EMBOFF ASKED
IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THIS VIEW.

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PAGE 02 ROME 13260 291931Z

2. TAKING UP SAFEGUARDS RATIFICATION FIRST, FONTANA SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD CLEARED ALL HURDLES ON GOVERNMENT SIDE AND HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO APPROPRIATE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INITIAL PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION. FOLLOWING POSITIVE ACTION IN SUBCOMMITTEE, AGREEMENT WILL BE SENT TO FULL SENATE FOR APPROVAL AND THEN TO APPROPRIATE CHAMBER SUBCOMMITTEE AND THEN TO CHAMBER ITSELF TO COMPLETE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS. FONTANA WOULD NOT ESTIMATE HOW LONG THIS MIGHT TAKE BUT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT QUESTION WAS BEING HANDLED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE IN CONTEXT OF REQUIRED BUREAUCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES. FONTANA FELT THAT, AT THE LATEST, PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BY NEXT JUNE IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY UNEXPECTED HITCHES.

3. REGARDING NPT, FONTANA SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH GOI STILL FIRMLY COMMITTED TO EVENTUAL NPT RATIFICATION, PRESENT INTENTION IS NOT TO SUBMIT AGREEMENT TO RATIFICATION PROCESS AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER SAFEGUARDS RATIFICATION ACCOMPLISHED. NOTING, AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT SAFEGUARDS RATIFICATION IS MORE PRESSING ISSUE, FONTANA INDICATED THAT NPT RATIFICATION SHOULD BE HANDLED CALMLY, WITHOUT HASTE AND WITH DUE REGARD FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OBTAINING AT TIME SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT RATIFIED.

4. IN LATTER CONNECTION, FONTANA SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED TO READ IN PRESS OF POSSIBLE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY OF EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS AND WONDERED WHETHER US HAS ANY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT. FURTHERMORE, FONTANA EXPRESSED CURIOSITY AS TO WHETHER US HAD LEANED ON CAIRO AND TEL AVIV TO ADHERE TO NPT SINCE IT WAS THESE BELLICOSE COUNTRIES, RATHER THAN COUNTRIES LIKE ITALY, WHICH, PARTICULARLY IF ARMED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WOULD CONSTITUTE A REAL THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. REVERTING TO BARGAINING CHIP THESIS WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED IN CONNECTION WITH ITALIAN DESIRE FOR PERMANENT SEAT ON IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND IN CONTEXT OF CSCE TRADEOFFS, FONTANA SUGGESTED THAT GOI WITHHOLDING OF NPT RATIFICATION UNTIL LAST MINUTE MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL IN OBTAINING ADHERENCE OF EGYPTIANS, ISRAELIS AND OTHER DELINQUENT MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES.

5. FINALLY, FONTANA NOTED THAT, WHILE IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 13260 291931Z

POLICY TO DELAY NPT RATIFICATION UNTIL AFTER FINAL ACTION ON SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS, IT WAS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT COULD RAISE QUESTION OF SIMULTANEOUS RATIFICATION OF BOTH AGREEMENTS IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS LINK BETWEEN THE TWO. HOWEVER, HE DOUBTED THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN. VOLPE

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